

Message Text

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62

ACTION SPM-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 OIC-04 SP-03 HEW-08 IO-14

CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-03 AID-20 DRC-01 /102 W

----- 086390

R 131029Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4284

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MASERU 0932

E O 11652: NA

TAGS: OCON SPOP UNWPC LT

SUBJ: WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE

BEGIN UNCLAS

1. LESOTHO MIN FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADVISES LESOTHO DELEGATION TO BE COMPOSED OF FINANCE MINISTER EVARISTUS R. SEKHONYANA, DIRECTOR OF STATISTICS A.M. MOLAPO, PERMSEC FOR HEALTH DR JONATHAN MOLAPO, AND ASST SECRETARY IN CENTRAL PLANNING OFFICE PASCALIS M. SEJANANAMANE. LESOTHO ALSO TO BE REPRESENTED BY OBSERVER DELEGATION INCLUDING DR PHILIP SEPHOMOLO, ON BEHLAF OF CATHOLIC CHURCH, AND REV JOHN M. DIAHO, PRESIDENT LESOTHO EVANGELICAL CHURCH.

2. BIODATA MINISTER SEKHONYANA: AGE 34. BA FROM SIR GEORGE WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY, MONTREAL, AND CERTIFICATE IN DIPLOMACY IN 1967 FROM COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY. MEMBER OF LESOTHO CIVIL SERVICE SINCE 1967 WITH EXPERIENCE IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS. ALSO SERVED AS COUNSELOR TO LESOTHO UN MISSION, 1968-71. APPOINTED FINANCE MINISTER 1971. END UNCLAS

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3. LESOTHO HAS BEGUN TAKING FIRST TENTATIVE STEPS TOWARD ESTABLISHING POPULATION POLICY, WHICH IS POTENTIALLY SENSITIVE
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TIVE ISSUE IN THIS PREDOMINANTLY CONSERVATIVE CATHOLIC

COUNTRY. NEVERTHELESS PRIME MINISTER HAS ASSURED US IN PRIVATE THAT LESOTHO WILL NOT LAG BEHIND OTHER COUNTRIES IN ADOPTING POLICIES TO COMBAT POPULATION EXPLOSION, AND GOVERNMENT IN GENERAL IS COMING TO REALIZE THAT POPULATION PRESSURES AND LIMITED RESOURCES ARE CRITICAL PROBLEMS FACING LESOTHO. KEY MEMBERS OF LESOTHO DELEGATION ARE MINISTER SEKHONYANA, ONE OF ABLEST MEN IN GOVERNMENT, AND DR JONATHAN MOLAPO, WHO HAS CONSIDERABLE EXPERIENCE IN FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMS. BOTH MEN GENUINELY SUPPORT POPULATION CONTROL MEASURES. WE EXPECT THEY WILL SPEAK OPENLY AND CANDIDLY WITH U.S. DELEGATES, BUT MAY BE MORE CAUTIOUS IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS. MONYAKE PROBABLY EQUALLY DEDICATED TO POPULATION PLANNING BUT DOES NOT HAVE AS MUCH INFLUENCE AS OTHER TWO. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.
HAUGHT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POPULATION, WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MASERU00932
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740225-0548
From: MASERU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740852/aaaabslv.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SPM
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <27 FEB 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE BEGIN UNCLAS
TAGS: OCON, SPOP, LT, US, UNWPC, (SEKHONYANA, EVARISTUS R), (DIAHO, JOHN M REV), (LESOTHO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005